

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 624

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to make application to the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution to call a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment requiring a balanced federal budget.

WHEREAS, with each passing year our nation falls further into debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenues; and

WHEREAS, fiscal discipline is a powerful means for strengthening our nation; the annual federal budget has risen to unprecedented levels, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government to control the federal debt; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures overwhelmingly recognize the necessity of maintaining a balanced budget; whether through constitutional requirement or by statute, forty-nine (49) states require a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, in promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people, one of the core functions of the United States Constitution is to enumerate and limit federal power; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove amendments to the Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented by their elected legislatures; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States Congress to call a constitutional convention upon application of two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Congress of the United States is directed to call a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States stating that in any given fiscal year, expenditures by the federal government shall not exceed available revenues, or some similar language.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the legislatures of the several states have made applications for similar relief pursuant to Article V; provided, that if Congress proposes amendments to the Constitution identical in subject matter to that contained in this resolution then this application for a constitutional convention shall no longer be of any force or effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.; to each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from Tennessee; and to the Archivist of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution also be sent to the presiding officers of the other state legislative bodies in the United States, with the request that the other states join Tennessee in applying to Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose proposed in this resolution.